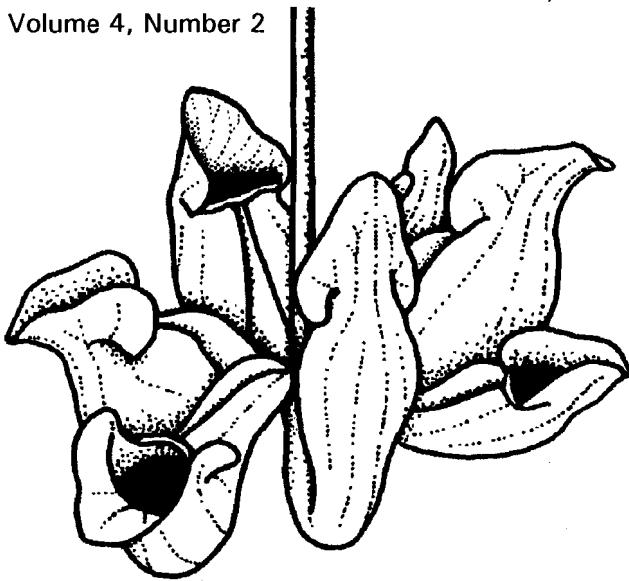


SARRACENIA

Newsletter of the Canadian Wildflower Society
Volume 4, Number 2

Newfoundland Chapter
Winter 1994



Spring 1994 Schedule

February 2: Fire in the Forest.

by Dr. Mike Weber, Forestry Canada.

A discussion & slide presentation on the natural role of fire in the forest ecosystem and the value of prescribed burns in forestry.

March 2: Grand Concourse Plans.

by Representatives of the Johnson Family Foundation.

A discussion of plans to develop connecting hiking trails along the river systems of St. John's & surrounding areas.

April 6: Wildflowers of Switzerland.

by Lydia Snellen, CWF member.

A slide presentation, by our most talented photographer, of the plants seen during her recent trip.

May 4: Wetland & Serpentine Barren Plants of the Northern Peninsula.

by Dr. Doyle Wells & Bruce Roberts, Forestry Canada.

A discussion and slide presentation of the west coast wetlands & the vegetation of the serpentine barrens.

June 1: Preview of Northern Peninsula Trip.

by Sue Meades and Todd Boland, CWF members.

A discussion and slide presentation of the barren and coastal vegetation along the Northern Peninsula.

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Meeting Place for March to June Meetings !!!

Thanks to the generosity of the Friends of the Garden, the Garden now owns a snow plow to clear the parking lot, therefore, all future meeting can be held, as usual, in the interpretation room at Memorial University Botanical Garden. Our regular meetings are held at 8 P.M. on the first Wednesday of each month (Oct. - Dec., Feb. - June).

General Announcements

1993-93 Executive & numbers to call for information about meetings or trips:

<p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">737-8590 753-6027</p> <p>Todd Boland, acting president. 737-8590</p> <p>Caroline Harley 895-2606</p> <p>Sue Meades, <i>Sarracenia</i> editor 335-2669</p>	<p>Alice Close, treasurer 579-1474</p> <p>Ken Knowles 437-6265</p> <p>Tom Smith, secretary 754-0949</p>
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As you may know, Anne-Marie is taking a leave of absence from her job as Chief Interpreter at the Memorial University Botanical Garden to study interpretation, education, and volunteer programs in botanical parks and similar organizations in Victoria, B.C. next year. Todd has agreed to act as president until our elections in June. Although Anne Marie will be greatly missed, we hope her year in B.C. is both enjoyable and rewarding, and look forward to her return in 1995.

Any member who would like to write an article for the newsletter or submit a black and white graphic (preferably pen and ink), please contact Sue at 335-2669 or Todd at the Garden (737-8590). Articles should be submitted on computer disk (if possible) in Word Perfect, IBM (PC) compatible; illustrations should be no larger than 4 X 6 inches.

Report on the Field Trip

For those members who have informed us of their intentions to participate in the Northern Peninsula field trip, we have made the following arrangements. A deposit of 30% is due by on or before June 1, 1994. Meals, transportation, insurance, and other expenses are the responsibility of individual members. To date, we have 12 members registered.

Evening of **August 16:** Shallow Bay Motel, Cow Head, Gros Morne National Park.
Two-room Cabins \$75.00; Single rooms \$55.00
Check in/out time: 1:00 PM

Evening of **August 17:** Sea Echo Motel, Port-aux-Choix.
Two-room Cabins \$75.00; Single rooms \$55.00
Check in/out time: 1:00 PM

Evenings of **August 18 & 19:** Plum Point Motel, Plum Point.
Two-room Cabins \$77.00; Single rooms \$64.00
Check in/out time: 2:00 PM

Itinerary for Northern Peninsula Trip

Day of Tuesday, August 16: Meet at visitors center, Gros Morne National Park for a hike to the Serpentine Tablelands and Lomond area. Bring a picnic lunch. Sleep at Shallow Bay Motel, Cow Head.

Day of Wednesday, August 17: Explore limestone barrens at Daniel's Harbour on the way to Port au Choix. Hike from Point Riche Lighthouse, through Phillips Garden, to Port au Choix. Those who feel the hike would be too strenuous can explore areas at either end of the hike and meet the group at Port au Choix later in the day. Sleep at Sea Echo Motel, Port au Choix.

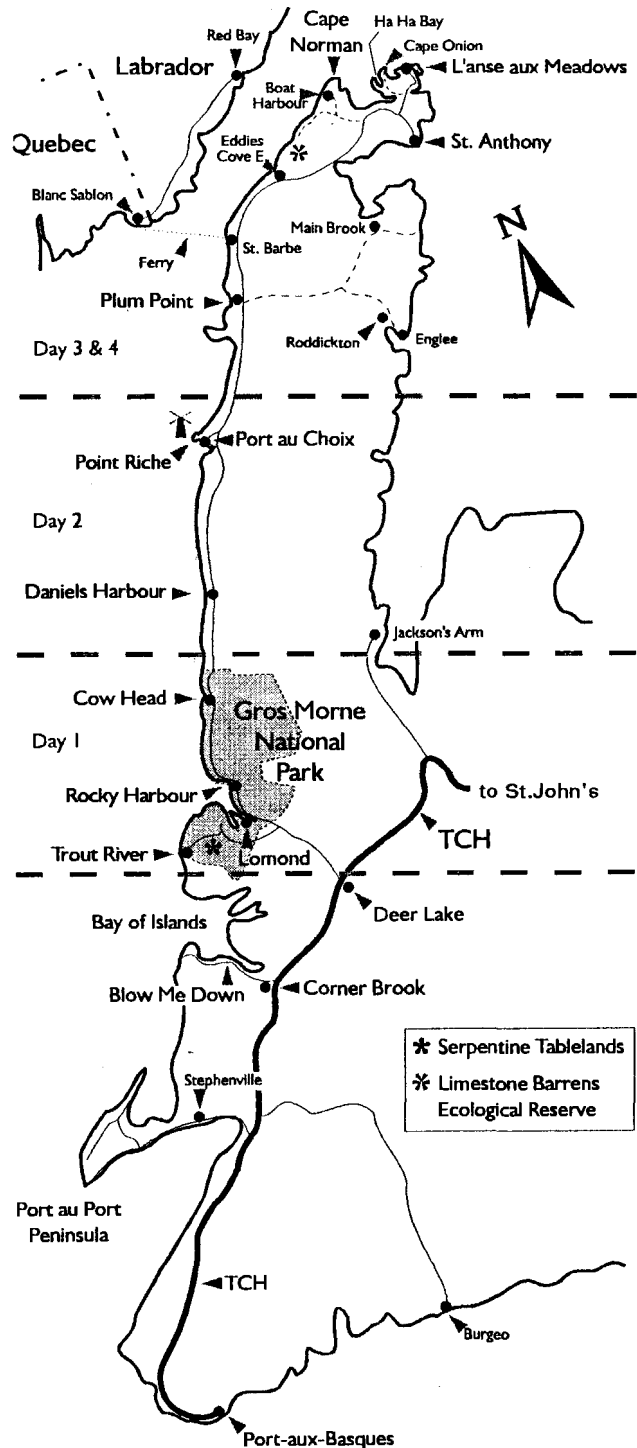
Day of Thursday, August 18: Explore coastal areas and wetlands between Port au Choix and Plum Point. Sleep at Plum Point Motel.

Day of Friday, August 19: Explore limestone barrens of Cape Norman at the very tip of the Northern Peninsula. Time permitting, explore surrounding areas of Cape Onion, Ha Ha Bay, and L'anse aux Meadows. Sleep at Plum Point Motel.

Day of Saturday, August 20: Begin drive back to points of origin, make your own accommodations from this point.

Ideas for other activities that you may want to do prior to, or after, the official trip:

- * Take the ferry from St. Barbe (just N of Plum Point), across the Strait of Belle Isle, to Blanc Sablon, Quebec, drive to Red Bay, Labrador.
- * Explore the Blomidon Trail east of Corner Brook, see Henry Mann's article in *Sarracenia* Vol.3 (3), Summer 1993.
- * Spend a day or more at Gros Morne National Park, exploring alpine and forest habitats along some of their many trails.



Basking on the Beamer

by Tom Smith

**Snowy, Flowy, Blowy
Showery, Flowery, Bowery
Hoppy, Croppy, Droppy
Breezy, Sneezy, Freezy**

The Twelve Months
George Ellis (1753-1815)

After an uncharacteristic "Breezy, Sneezy, Freezy" type of summer, the second annual Labour Day Hike and Social Outing on September 6, 1993 was greeted by glorious sun. An enthusiastic group of nature lovers gathered at Oceanview Park in Flatrock, near the community stage and breakwater, and set off for the Beamer.

It was a beautiful late summer's day, warm and breezy, with just a hint of fall. Flatrock typifies outport fishing communities and this morning was no exception with fishermen grouping on the community wharf yarning and cleaning fish. Overhead, several species of gulls wheeled and dipped, crying and snatching tidbits from the fishermen's handiwork. Local folks were doing things that needed doing at this time of the year - tarring roofs, last minute painting, garden work, and harvesting. These sights, sounds, and smells, the essence of nostalgia, were certainly abundant that Labour Day.

The Beamer, an unusually impressive geological formation, projects whale-like into the Flatrock harbour. The exposed location, barren nature with its scarce and rocky soil and with the sea its constant companion, produces not only an inspiring landmark, but a very interesting ecosystem. Lucky were we to have a geologist amongst us who explained some of the rock types and features and who pointed out interesting crystalline formations and of course the signs and effects of glaciation.

The trail begins at sea level, and near the community, in the lee of the hill, a variety of common colourful wildflowers were evident. **Gall-of-the-earth** (*Prenanthes trifoliolata*), **ox-eye daisy** (*Chrysanthemum leucanthemum*), **New York aster** (*Aster novae-belgii*), **tansy ragwort** (*Senecio jacobaea*), **narrow-leaved goldenrod** (*Solidago graminifolia*), and **common yarrow** (*Achillea millefolium*) were very abundant in seemingly heightened colours. A prominent clump of **flat-topped white asters** (*Aster umbellatus*) complemented and highlighted nearby neighbouring groups of **purple-stemmed asters** (*Aster puniceus*) and New York asters.

A fine display of **fall dandelion** (*Leontodon autumnalis*) mingled with **butter-and-eggs** (*Linaria vulgaris*), **cow vetch** (*Vicia cracca*), **creeping buttercup** (*Ranunculus repens*) and **tall buttercup** (*Ranunculus acris*), and a variety of grasses. Indeed, an interesting discussion was held about grasses with several types definitely identified, namely **sweet vernal grass** (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*) and **timothy** (*Phleum pratense*). Wind-stunted **blue flag** (*Iris versicolor*) or **beach iris** (*Iris hookeri*)? - Only Todd knew for sure, as he discussed the finer points of differentiation, doing some fine finger dissection of a seed pod on the spot, mumbling something about "raping the countryside".

Meanwhile, on the lower slopes of the Beamer, Di was the first to notice the **hooded ladies' tresses** orchid (*Spiranthes romanzoffiana*), which occasionally appears in lawns and paths. Nearby, Sue pointed out several fruticose type **caribou lichens** (*Cladonia boryii*, *C. uncialis*, *C. rangiferina*, and *C. arbuscula*); further along the trail, **british soldiers** (*Cladonia cristatella*) were found. Near the top of the Beamer, several excellent examples of lichen forms were identified. Foliose type lichen, such as the umbilicate **rock tripe** (*Umbilicaria spp.*) and yellow-green and gray crustose types were easily recognized, once Sue pointed them out on the bare bedrocks.

Near the edges of the lower meadow, close to the sea, was **Scotch lovage** (*Ligusticum scoticum*) in abundance, but alas, no **short-tailed swallowtail** (*Papilio brevicaudata*) either nectaring or ovipositing or even just enjoying itself. A few rather ragged late and non-flowering specimens of **cow parsnip** (*Heracleum maximum*) could still be recognized however. In drier areas were mature clumps of **Canadian burnet** or **bottlebrush** (*Sanguisorba canadensis*), golden reddish-brown in the sunshine. Similar colors could be found in mature **curly dock** (*Rumex crispus*) and **sheep sorrel** (*Rumex acetosella*). Speaking of color, one must not forget **common speedwell** (*Veronica officinalis*), **blue toadflax** (*Linaria canadensis*) and two types of **groundsel** (*Senecio vulgaris* and *Senecio viscosus*). In rougher areas, we found lots of **common eyebright** (*Euphrasia americana*) and Todd's keen eye spotted the diminutive **Oakes' eyebright** (*Euphrasia oakesii*) precariously placed near the southern cliff-edge. **Black knapweed** (*Centaurea nigra*) and **pineapple weed** (*Matricaria matricarioides*) also were present along the ascending trail in the lower areas as were **St. John's-wort** (*Hypericum canadense*).

Along the summit and towards the sea, the vegetation became more alpine and barren. Low, stunted, scattered, ground-hugging trees - mainly **balsam fir** (*Abies balsamea*), **white spruce** (*Picea glauca*), and an occasional **black spruce** (*Picea mariana*) and the creeping **junipers** (*Juniperus communis* and *J. horizontalis*) were surrounded by mats of **black crowberry** (*Empetrum nigrum*), juicy and ripe for aficionados, like myself.

Many members of the Ericaceae family (past flowering at this time of year) were evident: **Labrador tea** (*Ledum groenlandicum*) **rhodora** (*Rhododendron canadense*), **leatherleaf** (*Chamaedaphne calyculata*) and **sheep laurel** (*Kalmia angustifolia*). **Low bush blueberries** (*Vaccinium angustifolium*) were beginning to ripen with many still in flower. Lots of ripening **cranberries**, both large and small (*Vaccinium macrocarpon* and *V. oxycoccus*), and the ubiquitous **partridgeberry** (*Vaccinium vitis-idaea*) were found in slightly wetter areas, while nearby, a few **alpine bilberry** shrubs (*Vaccinium uliginosum*) were also discovered. In a dry hollow, shaded from the prevailing winds, a small patch of "googies eggs" or **creeping snowberry** (*Gaultheria hispidula*) were present, missed by a rather wistful, bird-watching trombonist, but noticed by his charming wife.

As the trail approached the tip of the Beamer, the vegetation became sparse, but a few bedraggled **starry false Solomon's seal** (*Smilacina stellata*) were still recognizable, and **crackerberries**, or **bunchberries** (*Cornus canadensis*), somewhat windblown and scattered, could be found. Beyond the vegetation line, several hundred feet of strewn boulders and twisted rock forms were rather daunting to the heavy footed, but here and there were colorful orange-ish patches of the crustose lichen (*Xanthoria*) where gulls obviously perched and provided nutrients.

At the very tip of the Beamer, brave fishermen stood over the precipice casting long lines into the sea for the juvenile remains of the northern Cod. Their young siblings, seated nearby, gathered the catch into white beef buckets. After enquiring how their luck was holding, I was told that they were catching "tousands and thousands" and so they were. One young lad wondered who the crowd of strange people were wandering over the Beamer. When told that they were a bunch of wildflower lovers, a look of disbelief and incredulity crossed his face and he muttered "grand life you have skipper"! And there in the sun and the breeze, it certainly was.

The walk back was leisurely and informative. I managed to have three common weeds that were conquering my vegetable garden identified. Knowing their handsome Latin names will ease my misery when weeding.

The group left for a barbecue at Sue and Bill's house and had a look at their newly discovered **checkered rattlesnake plantain** orchid (*Goodyera tessellata*) and **white twisted-stalk** (*Streptopus amplexifolius*). I unfortunately left for work. However, as I sit composing this missal (many weeks overdue, I might add) with snow swirling outside, I have fond and happy memories of the splendid day and wonderful walk in the Great Newfoundland Outdoors.

The Botany Column: Calla and Buckbean

by Peter J. Scott

My fondest wish for 1994 is that this will be a year with a summer. We have had no summers for the last three years that plants recognized as such. The autumns and early winters have been notable for excesses. Last year we had a larger-than-normal number of drops in temperature before Christmas - three times it went to -18° C. This year has been quite mild and pleasant. I have a number of seedlings of some new plants in the garden and I hope that they did, in fact, get enough snow cover. But, enough of winter thoughts.

When the growing season returns, there will be lots to explore. I would like to describe two aquatic plants that occur on the island. In many parts of North America, there are lots of ponds with abundant vegetation. Here we have many ponds but because of a low pH and other factors there is very little vegetation in most. There are some richer sites and a number of species are found there.

The wild calla (*Calla palustris*) is an outlying representative of a large, mainly tropical, family, the Arum Family (Araceae), that graces our swamps. This is an example of a family that is mainly tropical and subtropical but has a few representatives in the far reaches of the temperate region. There are also families that are most abundant in our part of the world and have a few representatives in the tropics. Some examples: Araliaceae, the Sarsaparilla Family, is mainly tropical and Umbelliferae, the Parsley Family, is mainly temperate in distribution. *Calla* was first given to these plants by Pliny; reason unknown. *Palustris* means 'of marshes'.

Wild calla looks similar to and is related to the calla of funeral association. It is an herbaceous plant with a long, stout creeping rhizome and relatively large leaves. The shoots develop in alternate years. During the first year a shoot bears long-stalked, roundish leaves with a heart-shaped base and in the second year a shoot will produce a pair of leaves and an inflorescence. The inflorescence is called a spadix and consists of many flowers crowded together in a finger-like structure. The jack-in-the-pulpit is a relative with a similar inflorescence; the "jack" is the spadix. The lower flowers have both stamens and pistils but the upper flowers bear only stamens. The inflorescence is made conspicuous by the white spathe (the "pulpit"), which is a modified leaf. A nauseous odour is emitted that is attractive to such pollinators as small flies, though snails have been observed to feed on the pollen. The fruit are red berries and each contains a few seeds.

This species is found in a few localities on the west coast and in central Newfoundland where it grows along the edges of ponds and in bog pools. It is also found west to Alaska and south to Pennsylvania. In Eurasia, it is found in central and northern Europe and east to Siberia. It is most distinctive and is unlikely to be confused with anything else. The rhizomes were used in Lapland to make flour for bread several centuries ago but we would make precious few loaves with the few plants we have.

The buckbean (*Menyanthes trifoliata*), a member of the Gentian Family (Gentianaceae) - in the broad sense, is much more common on the island. It is unlike what we think of as a gentian and some put it in its own family, the Buckbean Family (Menyanthaceae). This is a stiff and formal-looking plant with its neat crisp leaves and spire of fringed white flowers. *Menyanthes*, a name used for this plant by Theophrastus, means 'disclosing a flower, and refers to the way that the flower progressively expands. *Trifoliata* means 'three-leaved' referring to the three leaflets (*trifoliolata* = three-leaflets should have been given).

Buckbean is a perennial herb of the boreal regions. It has a thick creeping rhizome which is sheathed by the bases of the long leafstalks. The three leaflets are somewhat fleshy and smooth. The leafless flower stalk arises from the rhizome and bears a number of flowers that open from the base of the stalk upwards. The flowers turn brown rapidly after they have been picked. The flowers are fascinating as are the flowers of many aquatic plants. The five-lobed calyx is short and tubular, and the corolla has a short funnel-shaped base and five longer lobes. Each lobe is bearded with a dense covering of coarse white hairs and the stamens are attached to the funnel portion of the corolla. The style is stout and persistent on the top of the seed capsule. There are two forms of the flowers. In some, the style is longer than the stamens while in the others the reverse occurs. The capsule is thin-walled and it breaks open irregularly. This means that the seeds will be dispersed over a longer period of time and will have a better chance of getting established in a new site.

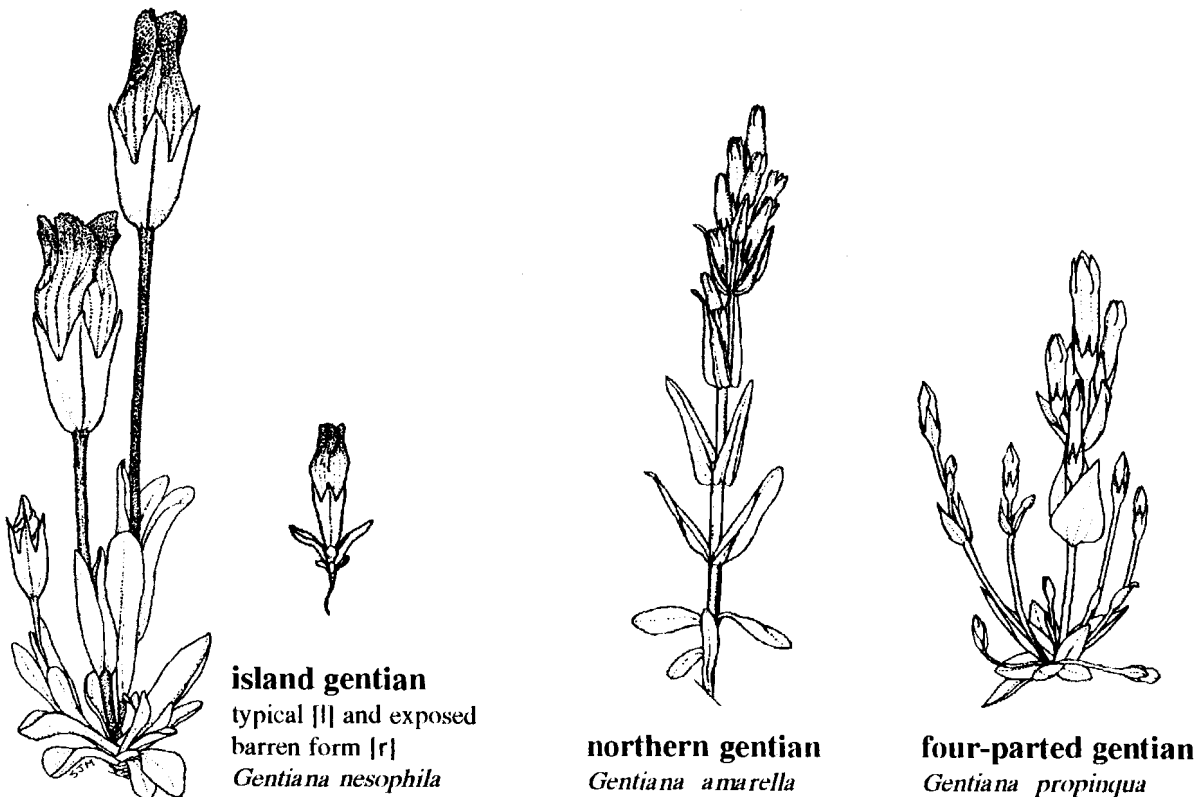
This species grows in shallow water and pond margins all across the island and west to Alaska. It occurs south to West Virginia and Nebraska and also in Eurasia. There are lots of other interesting plants in watery places and it is a great way to spend a day!

Northern Peninsula Gentians and Coastal Plants

by Sue Meades

While visiting the Northern Peninsula last August, my family and I had time to explore some of the calcareous shores of the Plum Point area. In one small site, we found dozens of specimens of our most attractive native gentian, the **island gentian** (*Gentiana nesophila*), 2 species of **grass-of-parnassus** (*Parnassia palustris* and *P. kotzebuei*), **hoary whitlow-grass** (*Draba incana* var. *confusa*) and **tufted saxifrage** (*Saxifraga cespitosa*). This particular site was being used to dry fishing nets, but nonetheless, blossoms of blue or white were sprouting in nearly every netted square. I also found 3 other members of the Gentian family - the purple **northern gentian** or **felwort** (*Gentiana amarella*), the relatively rare **four-parted gentian** (*Gentiana propinqua*), and the white to bluish **marsh felwort** (*Lomatogonium rotatum*).

The **island gentian** (*Gentiana nesophila*) is an annual or biennial, which, in protected sites, can reach about 20 cm in height and have several branches and blooms. However, in more exposed limestone barren areas, this species is often no more than 1 cm tall and reduced to a single bloom with 2 or 3 small pairs of leaves! (see figure below). The light green, oblong or spatulate leaves are rather fleshy and crowded at the base or the lower portion of the stems. The 4 petals are fused into a pale, tubular corolla with 4, purple to violet, rounded lobes that are edged in tiny, blunt teeth. The base of the corolla is pale with purple veining. The pale green calyx is 4-angled; each lobe is triangular and acute. Most often, the overlapping petals are nearly closed, but when the flowers are fertile, the petals open to an erect position, revealing a bright splash of yellow at the base of the corolla. The **northern gentian** (*Gentiana amarella*) and **four-parted gentian** (*Gentiana propinqua*) are similar in form. Both belong to the **felwort** section (§ *Endotricha*) of the genus



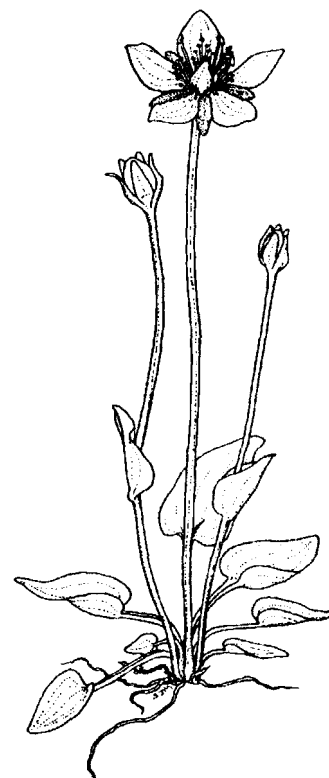
Gentiana, and are often placed in the genus *Gentianella*. They both have small, tubular, lavender flowers with 4 acute petal lobes. However, *inside* the corolla tube of the **northern gentian** is a fringe of slender pale bristles. The northern gentian is usually not branched and its leaves are lanceolate or spatulate with blunt tips, while the shorter, **four-parted gentian** has several branches with acute, lanceolate to ovate leaves.

At first glance, the flower of the **marsh felwort** (*Lomatogonium rotatum*) doesn't even hint at being a gentian. The corolla is deeply divided into 4 or 5 nearly separate petals, revealing an oblong, pointed ovary. There is no style and the stigma extends down, in 4-5 lines, along the ovary. The 2-5, linear sepals alternate with the petals. On the specimens I found, the white petals sported a blush of blue towards the centre, but the corolla is often porcelain blue. Another curious feature of the plant I examined was that the terminal flower was 4-merous (all flower parts in 4's), but other flowers on the same plant, which opened a few days later, had corollas with 5 petals. The leaves of the marsh felwort are similar to those of other gentians, being somewhat fleshy and lanceolate or spatulate. All four of these gentians were found in shallow, gravelly soil behind the beach in an area of about 1 m².

Towards the coast, the bare calcareous soil is punctuated by clumps of several **dwarf willows** (*Salix spp.*) and **soapberry** or **buffalo berry** (*Shepherdia canadensis*), which in late summer is easily noticed by the oval, reddish-orange fruits. The lower surfaces of the opposite, oval to lanceolate leaves are coated by a dense layer of stellate and round, peltate silvery scales. Scattered scales also are found on the fruit and stem. Blue **harebells** (*Campanula rotundifolia*) and white **woolly yarrow** (*Achillea lanulosa*) are common throughout the coastal region and Bill discovered a large patch of **meadow geranium** (*Geranium pratense*), an escape from gardens planted with flowers from England. The large purple flowers are similar to the **wild geranium** (*Geranium maculatum*) of mainland Canada, but the meadow geranium has larger flowers, pendant fruits, and leaves that are more dissected. In the centre of this showy purple clump were one or two white-flowered plants! An occurrence that apparently is repeated in several sites along the Northern Peninsula.



marsh felwort
Lomatogonium rotatum



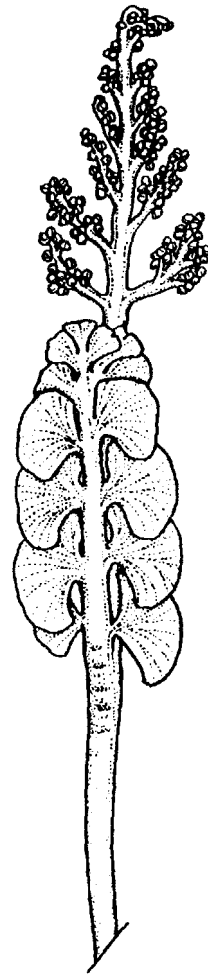
northern grass-of-parnassus
Parnassia palustris

The two remaining members of the Gentian family are the **spurred gentian** (*Halenia deflexa*), with its 4, purple to greenish, spurred petals, found in wet woods or forest borders throughout coastal Newfoundland and the easily overlooked, slender, purple-flowered **screwstem** (*Bartonia paniculata*) of bogs. The screwstem has minute, scale-like leaves and is recorded occasionally across the island, but from only one site on the Northern Peninsula.

Before reaching the intertidal zone, there is a wide grassy strip that contains many common weeds plus a scattering of **northern green orchis** (*Habenaria hyperborea*), **white adder's-mouth** (*Malaxis brachypoda*), **grove sandwort** (*Arenaria lateriflora*), and the unusual fleshy **moonwort fern** (*Botrychium lunaria*). Although past flowering, several fruiting heads of the **dwarf Canadian primrose** (*Primula mistassinica*) and the insectivorous **butterwort** (*Pinguicula vulgaris*) were also visible. On muddy flats and in rock crevices at the edge of the intertidal zone many salt-tolerant species could be found, including **round-fruited scurvygrass** (*Cochlearia cyclocarpa*), **seaside plantain** (*Plantago juncooides*), **knotted pearlwort** (*Sagina nodosa*), and the succulent greenish stems of **glasswort** or **samphire** (*Salicornia europaea*), which turn red in autumn.

The cobble beach facing the Strait of Belle Isle contains most of the coastal species found throughout the island, such as **beach pea** (*Lathyrus japonicus*), **sea rocket** (*Cakile edentula*), **oysterleaf** (*Mertensia maritima*), **beach-head iris** (*Iris hookeri*), **silverweed** (*Potentilla anserina*), and **scotch lovage** (*Ligusticum scoticum*). The beaches also are home to several species typical of the west coast of the island, such as the **seaside angelica** (*Coelopleurum lucidum*) and the introduced **marsh pea** (*Lathyrus palustris*), which can be distinguished from our native beach pea by its narrower, pointed leaflets and winged stem. Both peas have beautiful blue and violet or magenta flowers that take on an iridescent sheen in the late summer sun. On the beaches, as well as wet ditches and slopes, we see the striking, green-flowered, round umbels of the **great or purple-stemmed angelica** (*Angelica atropurpurea*) and the large, white-flowered, flat-topped umbels of **cow parsnip** (*Heracleum lanatum*). Closer to the water, masses of **seabeach sandwort** (*Honkenya peploides*), with its small, starry, white flowers, were interrupted by large clumps of **false arnica** (*Senecio pseudo-arnica*), which look like a medium-sized, yellow sunflowers. The emerging flower bud of the false arnica is surrounded by copious amounts of cobwebby white hairs. Tall **beach grass** (*Ammophila breviligulata*), responsible for stabilizing our west coast dunes, was also found throughout the beach area.

This article provides an introduction to what we should expect to find this summer on our trip to the west coast. In early July, visitors to this area will see many white-flowered sandworts and the yellow lady's-slipper orchid, but for colour and interesting form, I think August is a much more exciting time to visit the Northern Peninsula. In the next newsletter, I will discuss the vegetation of the limestone barrens of the Northern Peninsula.



moonwort
Botrychium lunaria

Book Review:

by Mary Woodruff

A Guide to Enjoying Wild Flowers.

by Donald and Lillian Stokes. 1984. Little, Brown & Company

Who Named the Daisy? Who Named the Rose?

by Mary Durant. 1976. Congdon & Weed (!)

Conventional wisdom insists that summer is the best time for reading. Those long, lazy days seem just made for us to lie stretched out in the shade with a good book and a long cool drink. Unfortunately, this does not apply to gardeners and wild-flower enthusiasts. In the growing season, the out-door chaise-longue is used only to prop up garden tools or hold a ball of twine; books are something to be hurriedly consulted when the leaves fall off the gooseberry-bush, or to identify a wildflower. But, eventually, the temperature drops and the first snow flakes fall, then, at last, there is time to enjoy all those wonderful books about the great out-doors.

I have two books to share with you, one I own, the other I hope Santa will bring. The first is Donald and Lillian Stokes' "*A Guide to Enjoying Wildflowers*". The title is perfectly apt. Leaving the professional members of our society aside, most of us, when we first become interested, feel quite satisfied identifying the more common wildflowers. We then progress to identifying the plant parts and plant families. If you are at this stage, Stokes' book will be just what you need to add to your knowledge and pleasure. You will be able to see the plant in its entirety, and realize it has its own agenda and its own place in the world of living things.

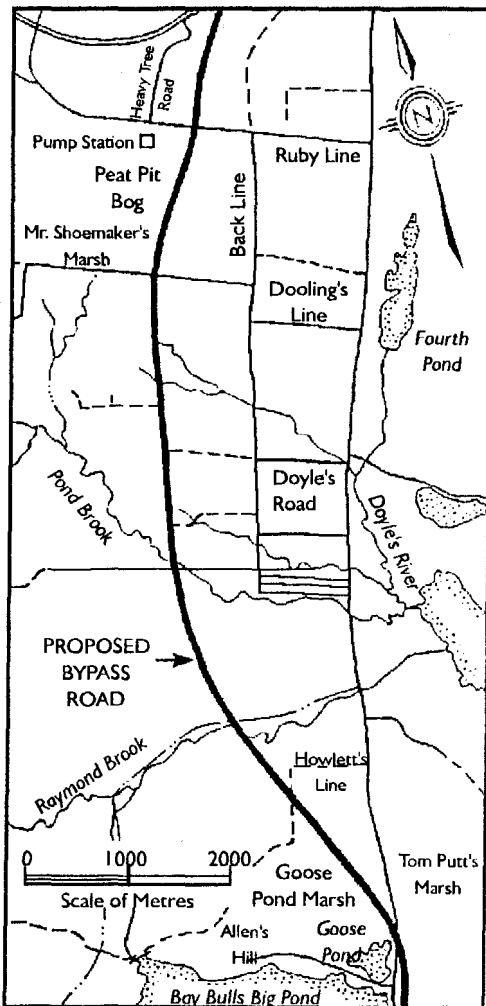
This book gives the life history of fifty plants, most of which grow in our province - aster, butter-and-eggs, buttercup, cinquefoil, lady's slipper, sunflower, and yarrow, to name just a few. For each plant there is a colour painting, a general description, the medical or culinary significance, sections on wild and garden relatives, and observations you can make, flower watching, and a description of the plant through the seasons. There are hundreds of black and white line drawings accompanying the text.

I discovered - that small orange-brown skippers love the flowering vetch - that the blue flowers of the European columbine, with its short spurs, can be pollinated by the bees while the wild columbine, with its long tube is adapted to the hummingbird's long tongue - that the genus *Rudbeckia* is named after Olaf Rudbeck, a Swedish botanist who taught Linnaeus at Uppsala University - that if you walk three times round a patch of butter-and-eggs you can break any spell that has been cast on you - that the centres of asters turn from yellow to brown, purple, or rose once they have been pollinated - that individual flowers of the buttercup open for four to nine days from eight to ten o'clock in the morning until they close between three to six - that the young leaves of the tansy were used to make a medicinal tea to reduce fever and calm nerves - and that, but enough, I guarantee you will enjoy reading it for yourself.

If the Stokes' book is full of theories, fact, and substance, the second, Mary Durant's "*Roving Dictionary of North American Wild Flowers. Who Named the Daisy? Who Named the Rose?*" adds some frills and furbelows. Durant writes about the common names of our wild plants, explaining that some come from the easily observed plant form (blue-eyed grass, goldenrod,

Dutchman's breeches), while others describe the medicinal properties, (feverfew, speedwell), while others are named for where they grow or what they do, (meadow rue, stone crop, lambkill, and yellow rattle). The American Indian names remain for some plants, (Indian pipe and moccasin flower), while other names are given to honour botanists. While many origins of names have been lost, this dictionary does explain, in a most entertaining way, the meaning of hundreds, along with cultivation hints, cooking suggestions, and excerpts of prose and poetry from various nature writers.

Here are some of the bits I relished. Joe Pye was an Indian who made the rounds of rural New England in the late 1700's. He was especially skilled in reducing fevers, and the only herb doctor to have a plant named for him. Any plant's name that includes the word "bane" is to be avoided. Bane comes from "bana", the Anglo-Saxon name for murderer or destroyer. It is applied to plants that are poisonous to humans or animals - henbane, dogbane, baneberry, cowbane or water hemlock. You have been warned! Craneberry, used as a cure for nausea by the Ojibways, was so named by them because the long stamens of the flowers resemble the beak of the crane. Orchid, or orchis, so named by the Greeks from the shape of the tuberous root which resembles a testicle. Orchids were said to be a powerful aphrodisiac for man and beast. Daisy is the 'day's eye'. And the rose, you will find, means just a rose.



!! Notice !!

Canadian Wildflower Society member, Gordon Ringius, an environmental consultant, is currently working on the Goulds By-Pass environmental preview report and is seeking information on any rare, endangered, or unusual plant species and habitats (sensitive areas) that may be present in the study area. The study area is indicated on the accompanying map. If anyone has any information they would like to pass on, please contact me at telephone 579-6613.